

[REDACTED]

1. A method of optimizing a response time for retrieving relevant documents from a set of candidate documents identified in response to a search query where the search query includes one or more terms, the method comprising the steps of:

associating a document to a relevance score bin based on a total matched term weight where a document that matches a total term weight of M is associated to a more relevant score bin than a document that matches a total term weight less than M ; and

2. The method as set forth in claim 1 further including determining a relevance of a document independently in relation to other candidate documents based on the relevance score bin associated to the document.

{ KXP0489.DOC;1 }

